Council, occupied the chair, and Mr. F. E. Dodson, of the National Allotments Committee Allotments Committee, and Mr. F. E. Dodson, of the Native Allotments Society and Mr. Giles, Secretary of the Representative Allotments Society and Mr. Giles, Secretary of the Native Allotments Society and Mr. Giles, Mr. Gil Allotments Committee, and Mr. Giles, Secretary of the Native Representative of allotment society, addressed the conference. of allotment societies, social service bodies, local authorities other interested people of other interested people attended. A big effort is to be extended. A big effort is to be extended. push the scheme through existing channels and also to extend still further in rural areas

Northampton County Federation held its quarterly new Kettering. Mr Months Federation held its quarterly new Industries, state of the st at Kettering. Mr. Morgan, of Imperial Chemical Mr. Free an instructive address. an instructive address on artificial fertilisers, and Mr. gave a very interesting gave a very interesting talk on the way bees transport Management. A. D. Rawlings North Management A. D. Rawlings North Management M Mr. A. D. Rawlings, National Allotments Society Manage Committee, dealt with the work and progress of the Republic Repub Herr Benshide, a German gentleman who accompanied Mr. the President of the Extra Section 1. the President of the Federation, spoke in glowing terms of gardens and lawns.

Sheffield Allotments Federation is conducting an npaign in order to a second conducting and through the second conducting and the second conducting campaign in order to rope in new societies. and by means of a new societies. and by means of a panel of able and well-informed spenited doing this work. Every doing this work. Every month at its Executive are deal problems and difficulties are deal problems. problems and difficulties of its affiliated societies are deal effectively. It recently effectively. It recently briefed a barrister to appear allowing in a desperate of the state of t enquiry in a desperate attempt to save a group of which are cultivated by unemployed a satisfiant societies at a save a group of which are cultivated by unemployed as 7,552 allotments, there are 18,000 ml. are cultivated by unemployed men. In addition, there are shown a privately owned. Sussex Area Organisation held a most successful gatherness or tof the ort of the

Sussex Area Organisation held a most successful garding Shoreham-by-Sea. Mr. A. G. Steers, Secretary, gave an report of the work being carried on an address report of the work being carried on. The National Secretary an address on the provision of an address on the provision of permanent allot blandish of the Brighton builders by softein to sacrifice their allot to the sacrifice by softein to sacrifice their allot to the sacrification. of the Brighton builders by refusing to sacrifice their allow to the god of bricks and morter."

Willesden Federation reported that its finances is factory condition of its willesden Federation reported that its finances richistation at its annual meeting and particular the good work being done the good work being done were given. By the efforts has been given. The National Total Particular to the state of 2s. per pole: are good work being done were given. By the has been a reduction of 2s. per pole in allotment rents for its service.

The National Allotments Society of the National Allotments Society of the Society of the National Allotments a reduction of 2s. per pole in allotment rents has its service.

The National Allotments Society was thanked for its obtaining the settlement of two sleeps.

Yorks. County Federation meeting yet held Mr. school allotment and local authorized at tended. And at the series allotment and local authorized at tended. allotment and local authority people the Assistance and Mr. Company of the most successful yet held. Mr. successful yet h Rowntree gave an inspiring address on with the group II. Rowntree gave an inspiring address on the Assistance the Assistance on the Assistance of the Assistance on the Assistance of the Assistanc Group Holdings. Everybody agreed with Mr. Rown and that "what the country needed was more greens Williams allusion to Mr. Green's valuable services.

NATIONAL ALLOTMENTS JOURNAL We in high praise of the efforts of the allotment movement. Urban Council entertained the Federation to a splendid tea, after Which the General Secretary of the National Allotments Society gave an address on co-operative trading.

## MISTAKES IN SOIL MANAGEMENT

BY JOHN STONEY (Horticultural Superintendent, Staffordshire

GREAT many mistakes are made in the treatment of soils. Novices labour under the impression that it is quite soon enough to dig and manufacture impression that it is quite soon enough that it is quite so that to dig and manure when seed sowing and planting time arrives in spring. Never was a greater mistake made. No wonder that seeds refuse to early properly. By leaving seeds refuse to germinate and plants to grow properly. By leaving and industrial seed sowing soil undustrial seed sowing and industrial seed sowing. soil undug all winter it will often turn up like lumps of concrete, and be difficult to work.

Heavy soils especially should be trenched, keeping the subsoil the bottom. In the bottom, and no attempt should be made to break the clods.

Atmospheric influences will The rougher it is left the better. Atmospheric influences will and considerable left the better. Atmospheric down stiff soils, assist considerably in weathering and breaking down stiff soils, increased down stiff soils, and increased down stiff soils, then increased down stiff soils, and increased down stiff soils and increased down stiff soils. and increased depth of soil encourages greater porosity, which than so much perfect the petter.

Additional considerably in weathering and breaking down still because the solution of the petter.

Additional considerably in weathering and breaking down still because the solution of the petter. heans so much to plants. Water descends to a lower level, heaving the plants. Water descends to be filled with air poisons thereby leaving the pores of the upper soil to be filled with air the out the air and poisons Instead of water. Stagnant water shuts out the air and poisons cold surface soil by takes the surface soil, kills the nitrifying bacteria and renders the soil its. By getting the nitrifying bacteria are air which takes cold. By soil, kills the nitrifying bacteria and renders the its place oxidizer and of the stagnant water the air which takes plant oxidizer and sets these free for ridge. lts place oxidizes the latent plant foods and sets these free for plants to feed on the latent plant foods and warmer. Dig, ridge, plants to feed on, making the soil drier and warmer. Dig, ridge, trench your series the latent plant foods and warmer. Dig, ridge, trench your series to be soil drier and warmer. Always or trench your soils in winter; do not wait until spring. Always hand a new good trench your soils in winter; do not wait until spring. The hand, a new garden or a neglected one when you first take it in over Do not then or a neglected one when you forking soil hand a new garden or a neglected one when you first take of the early in the entry in the entry in the early over early in the spring to ensure a fine tilth or overlook the surface between crops. desirability of frequently hoeing the surface between crops.

Some of us know the value of lime, and I am not going to enter to detail, but I was the value of lime, and I am not going to enter to be some of the same of the s into detail, but I must congratulate the National on the introductor the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National on the introductor operate the "Apalest congratulate the National operate" operate the "Apalest congratulate the National opera tion of the "Analoam" Soil Indicator. It is very simple to bold ind. But he was congratulate the National on the introduction of the "Analoam" Soil Indicator. It is very simple to bold indicator. But he was a colour chart.

of the "Analoam" Soil Indicator. It is very simple soil indicator be guarded against using too much lime unless the analoam shows a second to the colour chart. Analoam" Soil Indicator. The Analoam" Soil Indicator. An excess of lime over the acidity according to the colour chart. An excess of lime over the acidity according to the colour chart. An excess of lime applied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will act as a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will be a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will be a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will be a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will be a steriliser and much lib has often done plied to a soil will be a steriliser and hatm is often done by applying it excessively. As a guide, use a start of the colour indicates 7 lb. often done by applying it excessively. As a guide, and the same of the s faintly acid soil. If a red-crimson colour 14 lb. per rod should

Always apply lime to the surface, let it wash down, or scarify soil with the soil with the surface. into the soil with a fork during dry weather.